

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Troops and Military Installations in the Goldap-Kowahlen Area

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 April 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

**REFERENCE COPY****DO NOT CIRCULATE**Goldap.

1. A detail of about 40 border guard troops was billeted in a three-story brick building on the northern perimeter of Goldap (R 55/V 82) up to January 1951. The building was located in the fork formed by the intersection of the roads leading from Goldap to Darkehmen (R 55/V 63) and Gumbinnen (Q 53/K 10), respectively. A wooden observation platform on the roof of the building was occupied by a sentry at all times. The detail was assigned to duty along the Polish-Soviet border in the area north of Goldap; the border patrols numbering only a few men. There were wooden watchtowers on the Soviet side of the border. The detail maintained contact with another Polish border guard detail in Kowahlen (S 55/V 90). Border guard troops wore greenish-brown uniforms, puttees and laced shoes. Collar patches and cap ribbons were green. While moving around the area of the town, border guard troops were armed only with pistols. When on patrol duty, they carried submachine guns, either with wooden stocks and drum magazines, or all-metal with clip magazines. No motor vehicles were observed with the detail.
2. The US (Security Police) office for the county of Goldap was located on the north side of what was formerly Blumenstrasse, running west from the market-place. The office was staffed by a maximum of 20 persons.
3. The MO (Militia) office for the town of Goldap was in the workers' quarters of a former mill, south of the market-place, on the east side of the south-bound main street. It was staffed by five to ten militiamen who wore blue-gray uniforms.
4. The former German Panzerjaeger Kaserne (AT Artillery Barracks), which was constructed prior to World War II, was located on the western perimeter of the town and could be reached via Blumenstrasse. The installation included several large, multi-story barracks, and long rows of garages. Some

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of the buildings were damaged during the war. After the war, the installation was stripped of its interior equipment. Reconditioning was started about the beginning of 1949, with the installation being under guard since that time. The roofs were being repaired with sheet metal and the windows gradually installed or boarded up. However, no troops had moved in by the end of 1950.

5. The former German Infanterie Kaserne was located southwest of the old market-place. It consisted of six multi-story buildings. The installation, which was constructed prior to World War I and quartered an infantry battalion at that time, was damaged during World War II. Repairs by civilian workmen were started about the beginning of 1949. However, most windows were still boarded up in the fall of 1950. The installation was protected by civilian guards. There were no indications of an early reoccupation.
6. The former German Ulanen Kaserne, constructed prior to World War I, was located on the eastern perimeter of the town, on the south side of the road leading to Joerkischken (S 55/V 82). It consisted of two large brick buildings, the former riding hall having burned down. In early 1951, the barracks installation was empty and unguarded. No reconditioning work was observed.
7. Except for the border guard detail, mentioned in paragraph 1, no military units were stationed in Goldap in late 1950. No Soviet troops were observed.

#### Kowahlen.

8. A border guard unit of 80 to 100 troops was stationed in Kowahlen up to January 1951. This unit allegedly was the superior headquarters of the border guard detail in Goldap. It guarded the border in the southern portion of Rominten Heath. The unit was billeted in a three-story former private building, northeast of the railroad station, between the railroad line and the road leading to Goldap. Most of the troops were equipped with submachine guns; some were armed with rifles. No motor vehicles were observed.
9. An infantry company of young soldiers was billeted north of the quarters of the border guard troops. The troops were observed to be armed only with small arms. No special equipment was noted. The troops wore brown uniforms with epaulets to match, and round visor-type service caps with red ribbons. They drilled and received field training and training in firing.
10. A mine-clearing detail of about 50 Polish Army soldiers was employed in the Goldap-Kowahlen area up to late 1950.

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